

Claims

1. A computer-based method for facilitating the management of a project including :
- 5 providing a project management database configured to receive a plurality of entries, including a series of tasks or events and a series of attributes associated with the tasks or events, the attributes including time-based attributes indicating the timing of the tasks or events, and resource-based attributes indicating at least the human resources allocated to the tasks or events;
- generating at least a resource-centric display interface from the database in which each human resource is listed against its associated tasks, time-based attributes and task- related dependency links in a one-to-many relationship;
- 10 storing entries in the database; and
- compiling a project management plan in which tasks, associated time-based attributes and dependency links are grouped in respect of each human resource.
2. A computer based method for facilitating the management of a project as claimed in claim 1 wherein the method includes iteratively:
- 15 generating and displaying project sub-plans for each individual human resource,
- enabling the project sub-plans to be modified, and
- combining the modified sub-plans into an overall modified project management plan in which the tasks dependency links and associated time-based attributes are listed for each of the human resources.
- 20 3. A computer-based method for facilitating the management of a project having a series of tasks or events, said method comprising:
- receiving task data, associated resource data, associated timing data and associated task-related dependency data, said data being arranged to be viewed in a task- centric manner through a task-centric display interface in which each for each task all corresponding resources are grouped;
- 25 for each resource, grouping all corresponding task, timing and task-related dependency data,
- graphically representing said grouped data on a resource-centric display interface from a resource-centric perspective so that for each resource the task, timing and task-related dependency data is collectively displayed relative to said resource in a one-to-many relationship.
4. A computer-based method for facilitating the management of multiple projects, each project having a series of tasks, said method comprising:
- 30 receiving a plurality of project management datasets, each dataset including project data, task data, associated resource data, associated timing data and task-related dependency data with said data being viewable through a task-centric graphical interface,

for each resource, grouping all corresponding task, timing and dependency data,

graphically representing said grouped data on a resource-centric interface so that for each resource, the project, task, timing and dependency data is collectively displayed in a one-to-many relationship relative to said resource.

5 5. A computer-based method for facilitating the management of a project having a series of tasks or events as claimed in claim 4 wherein the method includes, at a resource-centric level, enabling individual tasks to be re-allocated to other resources, typically via a resource-centric interface.

10 6. A computer-based method for facilitating the management of a project having a series of tasks or events as claimed in either one of claims 4 or 5 wherein the method includes enabling said resource-centric project management dataset to be alternately displayed in a task-centric format, where for each task the resource and timing data is collectively displayed.

7. A computer-based method for planning a project including:

receiving a project management dataset including task data, associated human resource data and associated timing data,

15 for each human resource, grouping all corresponding task, timing and dependency data,

providing a resource-centric interface wherein said grouped data is graphically represented from a resource-centric perspective so that for each resource, the task and timing data are collectively displayed relative to said resource in a one-to-many relationship,

20 capturing modifications to said graphical representation and adjusting corresponding task and/or timing data,

storing modified task and/or timing data.

8. A computer-based method for planning a project including:

receiving a project management dataset including task data, associated human resource data, associated timing data and associated task-related dependency data;

25 deconstructing and regrouping the project management dataset for each human resource so that it is grouped with its corresponding task, timing and dependency data ,

graphically representing said grouped data so that for each resource, the task, timing and dependency data are collectively displayed relative to said resource in a one-to-many relationship.

30 9. A computer based method of facilitating the management of a project as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the dependency links are linked both to tasks allocated to the same human resource as well to tasks allocated to other human resources.

10. A computer based method for facilitating the management of a project as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein at least some of the human resources are comprised of teams of individuals who may be assigned to sub-projects.

5 11. A computer based method for facilitating the management of a project as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein resources-based attributes include non-human resources required in the implementation of the project, chosen from a group including equipment, supplies, premises, and associated costs.

10 12. A computer based method for facilitating the management of a project as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein both the project management plan and the individual plans making up the project management plan are arranged in a Gantt chart-type format, with each resource and associated task and timing data being row-specific.

15 13. A computer-based method for facilitating the management of a project having a series of tasks or events as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein , said task data is represented as a series of tasks, and said task-related dependency data is represented as a series of incoming and outgoing dependency links, each incoming link originating from tasks allocated to a human resource on which a particular task depends, and each outgoing link being directed to a task depending on said particular task.

14. A system for facilitating the computer-based management for a project, having a series of tasks, said system comprising:

20 a data store for storing a project management dataset, said project management dataset including task data, resource data, timing data and dependency data;

a task-based project management application which is arranged to access said data store, and to allow the graphical display and manipulation of said dataset in a task-centric manner, in which said application graphically displays the associated data for each task,

25 a resource-based project management application which is arranged to access said data store, and which groups for each resource all corresponding task, timing and dependency data in a resource-centric manner, so each resource is linked with its task and timing data in a one-to-many relationship, and

a graphical representation means for graphically representing said resource-centric data such that each resource is linked with its tasks, timing and dependency data in a one-to-many relationship.

30 15. A system for facilitating the computer-based management for a project having a series of tasks, said system comprising:

a project management application which stores a series of data on tasks in a first data store, each task having associated resource, timing and dependency data, said application graphically displaying data associated with each task in a task-centric format,

35 a function integrated within the project management application which is able to access the said first data store, and which aggregates data associated with each resource and stores it in a second data

store, so that each resource is linked with its task, timing and dependency data in a one-to-many relationship,

a graphical representation means adapted to generate a graphical representation of either the first or second data stores, and

5 means for switching between graphical representations of the task-centric or resource-centric views.

16. A system for facilitating the computer-based management for a project having a series of tasks, said system comprising a data store for storing a project management dataset, said project management dataset including task data, resource data dependency, and timing data, and

10 a task-based project management application which is arranged to access said data store, and to allow the graphical display and manipulation of said dataset in a task-centric manner, in which said application graphically displays the associated data for each task, and

a resource-based project management application which is arranged to access said data store, and which is arranged to group for each resource all corresponding task and timing data in a resource-centric manner, so each resource is linked with its task and timing data in a one-to-many relationship, said application including or interfacing with a graphical representation means for graphically representing said resource-centric data such that each resource is linked with its tasks, timing and dependency data in a one-to-many relationship.

17. A system for facilitating the computer-based management of a project, having a series of tasks, said system comprising:

means for storing a project management dataset, said project management dataset including task data, resource data timing data and dependency data;

means for accessing said dataset, graphically displaying the associated data for each task and manipulating said dataset in a task-centric manner,

25 means for accessing and reorganising and/or updating said dataset, said reorganising and/or updating including grouping task and timing data in a resource-centric manner, so each resource is linked with its task and timing data in a one-to-many relationship,

means for graphically representing said resource-centric data such that each resource is linked with its task, timing and dependency data in a one-to-many relationship.

18. A system for facilitating the computer-based management of multiple projects, each project having a series of tasks, said system comprising:

a plurality of data stores for storing a plurality of project management datasets, each dataset including project data, task data, associated resource data and associated timing data,

a resource-based project management application which is arranged to access said plurality of data stores, and which is arranged to group for each resource all corresponding task and timing data in a resource-centric manner, so each resource is linked with its task and timing data in a one-to-many relationship,

5 a graphical representation means for graphically representing said resource-centric data such that for each resource, project, task, timing and dependency data for that resource across each project is collectively displayed in a one-to-many relationship relative to said resource.

10 19. A system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 18 wherein the system includes a plurality of display interfaces, each display interface having individual human resources listed against events or tasks associated with that resource.

20. A system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 19 wherein the system includes means for enabling dependency-based links to be inserted between dependent tasks or events associated with the human resources.

15 21. A computer readable medium having stored thereon executable instructions for causing a computer to perform a method according to claims 1 to 14, and for interacting with a database.

22. A computer readable media containing program code, the program code being operative to instruct at least one programmable processor to execute the project management methods according to claims 1 to 14.

20 23. A computer readable media containing program code, the program code being operative to instruct at least one programmable processor to execute a resource-based project management application which is arranged to access a data store associated with a project, and which is arranged to group for each resource in that project all corresponding task, timing and dependency data in a resource-centric manner, so each resource is linked with its task, timing and dependency data in a one-to-many relationship, said application including or interfacing with program code capable of graphically
25 representing said resource-centric data such that for each resource, task, timing and dependency data for that resource, is collectively displayed in a one-to-many relationship relative to said resource.

30 24. A computer readable media containing program code, the program code being operative to instruct at least one programmable processor to execute a resource-based project management application which is arranged to access data stores associated with a plurality of specified projects, and which groups for each resource all corresponding task, timing and dependency data in a resource-centric manner, so each resource is linked with its task, timing and dependency data in a one-to-many relationship, said application including or interfacing with program code capable of graphically representing said resource-centric data such that for each resource, project, task, timing and dependency data for that resource across each project, is collectively displayed in a one-to-many relationship relative to said
35 resource.